



Saguaro National Park (West)

Naturalist Program Schedule

Programs meet at the Red Hills Visitor Center, 2700 N. Kinney Road, and last 30 to 45 minutes, unless noted otherwise. Program schedules are subject to change. Call the visitor center at (520) 733-5158 for updates. See www.nps.gov/sagu for other programs. *Programs marked with an * are wheelchair accessible.*

February 22 - February 28, 2010

Monday – February 22

10:45 a.m. Mysterious Mammal .75 mile, 1 hr. Hike

Sonoran Desert mammals are seldom seen, but they are present in great diversity and numbers. Where are they? How do they survive in the desert climate? Come along to learn the answers.

11:45 a.m. God's Dog & Desert "Pigs" Patio Talk*

An introduction to two of our most common desert mammals: the coyote and the javelina.

1:15 p.m. Birdless Bird Walk Easy 100 yard Walk *

Have you heard a bird call you didn't recognize? Have you seen a bird new to you and wonder what it is? Even if no real birds actually grace us with their presence, we'll show you what the common birds look and sound like.

2:15 p.m. Life on the Edge: Plant And Animal Survival Strategies Easy 100 yard Walk*

Adaptations to seemingly harsh conditions allow many species to survive and even flourish, but will desert plants and animals be able to weather climate changes?

Tuesday – February 23

10:45 a.m. Adaptations: Recipe for Survival Easy 100 yard Walk*

Take a walk in our Cactus Garden Walk to discover some physical and behavioral adaptations of desert plants.

11:45 a.m. Life Cycle of the Saguaro: Seed to Giant Easy 100 yard Walk*

Some astonishing reasons given on why so few Saguaro seeds make it to fruition.

2:15 p.m. Meet the Cuckoo of the Desert Illustrated Talk*

Learn about the natural history, behaviors and fascinating facts about this colorful creature: the Roadrunner.

2:45 p.m. Wasson Peak Moonlight Hike 8 miles, 7 hr. Hike

This hike is considered difficult because of the 1,700 ft. elevation gain. It has rough and rocky terrain. The 360 degree views at the top are well worth the climb. Reservations required; call 733-5158

Wednesday – February 24

10:45 a.m. Lost and Gone Forever 1.5 mile, 1.5 hr. Hike

Learn how species become threatened, endangered or extinct. What are the consequences of habitat loss or climate change to those that call this place home?

11:45 a.m. Synergy in the Desert: The Sonoran Habitat Illustrated Talk + 50 yard Walk*

For all of life, "the whole is greater than the sum of the parts" is true. The iconic Saguaro is the focal point for a discussion of how the parts of the Sonoran Desert work together to create a rich living desert that is unique in the world.

1:15 p.m. Desert Communication 1 mile, 1.5 hrs. Walk

Desert plants, animals, and people need to communicate with each other in order to create a vibrant functioning habitat. This program will explore the realities and theories of desert communication thru the ages.

2:15 p.m. Those Who Came Before Patio Talk*

Learn about the Hohokam (those who are gone), who inhabited this area from A.D. 300 to A.D. 1450.

4:45 p.m. Twilight Glow to Moon Shadows 2.5 miles, 3.5 hr. Hike

This hike affords an opportunity to experience the desert in the twilight glow and then discover the mystic moon shadows which will accompany us to the end of the hike. Reservations required; call 733-5158

Thursday – February 25

10:45 a.m. Desert Sojourn *Patio Talk**

Find out why this human perceived “harsh” environment is “Heaven on earth” for animals and plants.

11:45 a.m. Lost and Gone Forever *1.5 mile, 1.5 hr. Hike*

Learn how species become threatened, endangered or extinct. What are the consequences of habitat loss or climate change to those that call this place home?

1:15 p.m. Ancient Graffiti *Illustrated Talk**

Learn about the different kinds of rock art from the past, who made them and how we determine their age.

2:15 p.m. Geology of the Tucson Mountains *Patio Talk**

This program explores how the Tucson Mountains came to be where they are now, their composition and forces that built and continue to shape them.

4:00 p.m. Sunset Hike *3.5 miles, 3.5 hr. Hike*

Climb 700 feet to a ridgeline for the sunset and return by moonlight. Reservations required; call 733-5158

Friday – February 26 ?

4:45 p.m. Moon Take Night Make Day *2.5 miles, 3 hr. Hike*

Walk up a desert wash during the transition from day to night. Enjoy the sunset and stroll in the moonlit desert. Reservations required; call 733-5158

Saturday – February 27

11:45 a.m. Road Kill! Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road? *Patio Talk**

National Parks and others work to put a stop on road kill. Find out the extent of the problem and how you can help.

2:15 p.m. Neighborhood Characters *Easy 100 yard Walk**

See if you recognize plant versions of your friends and relatives as you take a 30-minute nature walk in the Red Hills Visitors Center neighborhood.

3:15 p.m. The CCC and its impact on Saguaro National Park *Illustrated Talk**

The Civilian Conservation Corps was a Depression-era work program that had a great influence on National, State, and County parks throughout the Nation. Saguaro’s trails, picnic areas, and scenic drives were established during this program. A brief history of the CCC in this area will be illustrated with old photo images and movie clips.

Sunday – February 28

10:45 a.m. The Secrets of the Saguaro *1 mile, 1 hr. hike*

Have you ever wondered how the saguaro can survive and thrive in this park? What do young saguaros look like? How long do they live? Come and learn about the secret life of the saguaro cactus.

11:45 a.m. Road Kill! Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road? *Patio Talk**

National Parks and others work to put a stop on road kill. Find out the extent of the problem and how you can help.

1:15 p.m. A Saguaro's Guide to Desert Survival *Patio Talk**

Did you know that the saguaro cactus is the ultimate desert survivalist? Come and learn what the saguaros can teach us about the desert.

2:15 p.m. Romance in the Desert *Patio Talk**

Romance is alive and well in the desert. Come hear about the suitor with the Stradivarius, the jousting suitor and other romances in the desert.

3:15 p.m. Snakes *Patio Talk**

Learn about the communication skills, special adaptations, and defense systems of these often misunderstood creatures. A bit of folk lore is also shared.

7:00 p.m. Moonrise Over the Mountains *Night Patio Talk**

This campfire talk on the patio of the Red Hills Visitor Center provides a relaxing view of the full moon as it rises above the cactus forest. Bring a lawn chair and warm clothing.

